

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures

October 11, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Chris Riddle, Chair; Jacqueline Maidana, Vice-Chair, Michael Greenebaum, Clerk; Maurianne Adams, Janet McGowan, Adrienne Terrizzi

Absent: John Hornik, Amber KaCey, Hind Mari Agenda

1. Review and approve September 20, 2016, minutes
2. List of improvement projects to work on
3. Surveying Town Meeting members and other ways to obtain input and improve Town Meeting
4. Presentation at fall Special Town Meeting
5. Topics not anticipated 48 hours before meeting
6. Public Comment

Chair Chris Riddle called the meeting at 4:46. The review of the minutes of September 20, 2016, was deferred until October 18, 2016. The process of posting and communicating meeting times and agendas was discussed. Riddle will send agenda to Terrizzi who will post the meeting and get a location. She will then send the agenda and location to the membership. Riddle will also send agenda to Mary Streeter for posting on the TMCC website.

Riddle said that the Article concerning red, green and white cards was submitted to the Select Board for inclusion on the town warrant. Some reported concerns that this matter was too trivial for our first motion to town meeting. Other members felt that a relatively non-controversial motion was a good way for SPP to introduce itself and for town meeting

to expect to receive motions from TMCC. There was concern that white was an inappropriate color for the card that indicated either a question or a comment that was neither for or against the motion on the table. It was noted that an amendment to change that color could be made on the floor of town meeting. Riddle will make the motion under the Article on behalf of TMCC.

We agreed that SPP should introduce itself with a statement at the opening session of fall Town Meeting. Riddle will notify the Moderator of our wish to be included among reports to Town Meeting. Greenebaum will make the statement on behalf of SPP. The statement will refer to other matters that SPP already has on the table (see list attached). The statement will also be clear that this is now a standing mechanism for Town Meeting to improve its own policies and procedures, an important addition to TMCC responsibilities at a time when the future of Town Meeting is being questioned.

We agreed to the paramount importance of finding out the concerns and ideas of Town Meeting members. An informal survey, using the TMCC list serve, will invite members to share their ideas and concerns. SPP will also publish its meeting dates, times and places and invite members to join us in our deliberations. Forums and open discussions will also be scheduled.

To establish a meeting schedule through December, Riddle will create a Doodle Poll to find out dates and times most SPP members are available. Some felt that earlier meetings in wintertime would be preferable, although it was acknowledged that this would be difficult for some.

At our next meeting on October 18, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. we will continue to work on our presentation to Town Meeting, our plans to solicit ideas and concerns from Town Meeting members, prioritize the issues we wish to address at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, and confirm our meeting schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Michael Greenebaum, Clerk